

Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition For Immediate Release

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What: Nuclear Regulatory Commission Meeting

When: 6:00 PM, Colonial Terrace 119 Oregon Road, Cortlandt Manor, New York 10567

Groups Unified in Opposition to Indian Point

Disaster in Japan a wake up call for the Hudson River Valley

A coalition of environmental and citizens' groups will hold a press conference today at 6pm at Colonial Terrace in Cortlandt Manor, NY prior to the start of the Annual Safety Assessment Meeting for Indian Point Units 2 and 3. United by a concern over the ongoing disaster at Fukushima the organizations joining together in this initiative include Citizens Awareness Network, Greenpeace, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition (IPSEC), New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), Riverkeeper and Shut Down Indian Point Now, a new group recently formed in New York City.

Celebrated composer, conductor and musician, David Amram will be on site for a musical performance prior to the press conference. He will share his own very personal reaction to what happened in Japan as his son was touring there. The groups will be joined by New York City Residents and area residents eager to use the last public forum before the Indian Point relicensing hearing in the fall to make their concerns heard to the NRC.

Questions for the NRC will include topics such as why the following measure for public health and safety have not been implemented:

- Full containment for the spent fuel pool
- Independent back up electricity and cooling for the spent fuel pool
- Moving spent fuel rods into hardened dry cask storage as quickly as possible
- Extending the evacuation zone to 50 miles as recommended by the United States government for Americans in Japan

- Remediating the flaws and deficiencies regarding the emergency evacuation plan raised by the James Lee Witt report

Many groups will call for a moratorium on re licensing Indian Point until the lesson learned at Fukushima can be thoroughly evaluated and the public can be protected from disasters that include failure of multiple reactors at one site, something that the NRC has previously refused to plan for since it felt that this was not a possibility. Some groups will call for the closure of the plant because of the danger to 20 million residents within a 50 mile area. All groups concur that while there may be a low probability of catastrophic releases of radiation from Indian Point, the impact is so high that the diminishing amount of electricity Indian Point has contracted to provide to our grid is just not worth the risk.

Susan Shapiro of Rockland Citizens Awareness Network will present her study on the property values in the affected 50 mile area.

Gary Shaw, IPSEC Core Group member and founding member of Croton Close Indian Point, stated, "Fukushima is a wake up call for everyone about what can happen at any nuclear plant anywhere and now at Indian Point we know that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has not been doing a good job of maintaining high regulatory standards. When Entergy could not meet design base fire safety standards the NRC lowered the standards. When the NRC required back up generators for the spent fuel pools Entergy immediately applied for an exemption and it was quickly granted. It is time that the United States stopped putting its head in the sand and look at other industrialized countries and what they are doing in regard to the ongoing Fukushima disaster and what they are doing to meet their energy needs without nuclear power. At the very least, we need a moratorium on relicensing Indian Point."

"This meeting is the perfect platform to present a unified voice about the gaping safety failures that exist at Indian Point in the wake of what we have learned from the tragedy in Japan, and the NRC's shocking lack of urgency in addressing them," said Paul Gallay, Executive Director & Hudson Riverkeeper. "According to former FEMA director James Lee Witt, the 10 mile evacuation plan won't protect the public at Indian Point, so the concept of trying to evacuate millions of people within a 50 mile radius is pure fantasy. To add insult to injury, the NRC refuses to address the risk posed by spent fuel pools packed with toxic nuclear waste, despite evidence from Fukushima that the nuclear waste pools there released huge amounts of radiation into the environment. We cannot afford to sit by and watch as the NRC conducts another 'business as usual' review and refuses to address the public's concerns about these critical issues in a meaningful way."

"Hudson River Sloop Clearwater has joined 45 organizations petitioning the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to immediately suspend all licensing and relicensing activities at 21 pending nuclear reactors, until the 'lessons learned' from Fukushima can be incorporated into these proceedings," said Clearwater's Environmental Director, Manna Jo Greene. "Given Indian

Point's abysmal track record, we believe the plant should be retired. Creating more highly radioactive waste to be stored on site is extremely dangerous, especially when cleaner, safer sources of energy are readily available."

"Countries around the world are moving away from dangerous nuclear power and toward safe solutions like renewable energy and energy efficiency. Japan has already shut down especially risky nuclear reactors that put millions at risk, and Germany is phasing out nuclear power entirely," said Canem Ozyildirim, Greenpeace organizer in New York, "It's time our public officials learn the lessons of Fukushima and shut down Indian Point."

The NRC and the Indian Point plant owner, Entergy, repeatedly vow to "learn the lessons of Fukushima" but it's largely business as usual, with the NRC proceeding towards relicensing the plant for another 20 years beyond its designed lifespan without considering highly relevant safety criteria, and without even enforcing regulations on such basics as fire protection and seismic standards. It is time to close the plant and stop making more of the dangerous high level radioactive waste and invest in greener alternatives and more efficient use of energy.

To read the study and NRC assessment, visit:

<http://www.ips-dc.org/>

<http://msnbcmedia.msn.com/i/msnbc/Sections/NEWS/quake%20nrc%20risk%20estimates.pdf>